09/339,325

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	EXAMINER

TM02/1114
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
7TH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES CA 90025

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	3

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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Office Action Summary

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *Jun 23, 1999* .

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire _____3_____ month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐approved ☐disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____ .

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____ .

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). ___2___

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- *SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES* ---

DRAWING OBJECTIONS

1.   This application has been filed with drawings that have been objected to by the PTO

draftsperson (see FORM PTO 948); therefore, said drawings are considered informal and

acceptable for examination purposes only. "The applicant is required to submit acceptable

drawings within three months from the mailing of the 'Notice of Allowability.'" (See 37 CFR

1.85(c)).

CLAIM REJECTIONS — 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶2

2.   Independent claim 15 and dependent claims 16-21 are rejected as indefinite pursuant to 35

U.S.C. §112 ¶2 as reciting an improper Markush Group.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims
>
> particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter
>
> which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 15, lines 3-4 recites in part:

> one function . . . selected from the group comprising of a bid
>
> verifier, an information manager, a clearer, and a registration
>
> manager. . . .

Claim 15 is in improper Markush form and therefore indefinite because the open-ended terminology "the group comprising of A, B, and C" is used in place of "the group consisting of A, B and C" or "the group is A, B or C." (See MPEP 2173.05(h)).

Claims 16-21 are rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶2 for substantially the same reasons as claim 15.

CLAIM REJECTIONS — 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as

being unpatentable over <u>Franklin et al.</u> 6,055,518 (04/25/2000) [f/d: 11/12/1996] (herein referred

to as "<u>Franklin</u>").

As per claim 1, <u>Franklin</u> (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 21-36; col. 3, ll. 4-50;

col. 4, ll. 18-28; col. 5, ll. 5-12; col. 5, ll. 32-36; col. 6, ll. 38-42; col. 9, ll. 22-52; and col.

11, ll. 25-34) shows elements that suggest a "universal auction system having a

programmable auction server, the programmable auction server comprising: a plurality of

auction modules wherein at least one auction module corresponds to at least one function

of an auction selected from the group consisting of a bid verifier, an information manager,

a clearer, a registration manager, and a proxy bidder."

<u>Franklin</u> does not explicitly show "a proxy bidder. . . ."even though <u>Franklin</u> (col.

4, ll. 11-15) suggests "a proxy bidder."

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of on-line

auctions that <u>Franklin's</u> *"identity of a . . . bidder [is] not revealed. . . . "* (See <u>Franklin</u> col.

4, ll. 11-15) would have been selected in accordance with "a proxy bidder. . . ." because

such security measures would have provided a means to optimize secrecy. (See <u>Franklin</u>

col. 4, ll. 11-15).

Dependent claim 2 is rejected for substantially the same reasons as claim 1.

As per dependent claim 3, <u>Franklin</u> shows the system of claim 1 (See the rejection of claim 1 <u>supra</u>).

<u>Franklin</u> (FIG. 1; FIG. 2; col. 2, ll. 60-67; col. 3, ll. 1-2; col. 3, ll. 4-50; col. 4, ll. 35-50; col. 5, ll. 5-12; and col. 6, ll. 38-42) shows elements that suggest "a set of trading primitives; a script interpreter for interpreting a temporal protocol script representing an auction specification, the script including references to at least a portion of the set of trading primitives; and means for switching an auction specification of one phase with an auction specification of another phase."

<u>Franklin</u> does not explicitly show "means for switching an auction specification of one phase with an auction specification of another phase. . . ." even though <u>Franklin</u> (col. 3, ll. 4-50) suggests "means for switching an auction specification of one phase with an auction specification of another phase. . . ."

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of on-line auctions that <u>Franklin's</u> *"auction typically consists of two phases. . . . At some point the bidding period is closed, thus initiating the second phase. . . ."* (See <u>Franklin</u> col. 3, ll. 3-10) would have been selected in accordance with "means for switching an auction specification of one phase with an auction specification of another phase. . . ." because such switching measures would have "guaranteed that no bid is revealed prior to the close of the bidding period." (See <u>Franklin</u> col. 2, ll. 1-2).

As per dependent claim 4, <u>Franklin</u> shows the system of claim 3 (See the rejection

of claim 3 <u>supra</u>).

<u>Franklin</u> (FIG. 1; FIG. 2; col. 2, ll. 60-67; col. 3, ll. 1-2; col. 3, ll. 4-10) shows

elements that suggest "at least one auction module of one phase is replaced with at least

one auction module of another phase."

<u>Franklin</u> does not explicitly show "at least one auction module of one phase is

replaced with at least one auction module of another phase. . . ." even though <u>Franklin</u>

(FIG. 1; FIG. 2; col. 2, ll. 60-67; col. 3, ll. 1-2; col. 3, ll. 4-10) suggests "at least one

auction module of one phase is replaced with at least one auction module of another

phase."

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of on-line

auctions that <u>Franklin's</u> *"communications links and switching processors. . . ."* would

have been selected in accordance with "at least one auction module of one phase is

replaced with at least one auction module of another phase. . . ." because such switching

measures would have provided means for a secure on-line auction network. (See <u>Franklin</u>

col. 2, ll. 1-3).

As per dependent claim 5, <u>Franklin</u> shows the system of claim 1 (See the rejection

of claim 1 <u>supra</u>).

<u>Franklin</u> (col. 3, ll. 4-58) shows elements that suggest "at least one phase

comprising an interval in which at least one transaction occurs, the transaction is selected

from the group comprising submitting a bid, admitting a bid, withdrawing a bid, and

replacing a bid."

Franklin does not explicitly show "replacing a bid. . . ." even though Franklin

(col. 3, ll. 4-58) suggests "replacing a bid."

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of on-line

auctions that Franklin's *"insert a bid. . . ."* would have been selected in accordance with

"replacing a bid. . . ." because such measures would have provided means for

implementing an on-line auction network. (See Franklin col. 2, ll. 1-3; and col. 3, ll. 1-

50).

As per dependent claim 6, Franklin shows the method of claim 5 (See the rejection

of claim 5 supra).

Franklin (col. 4, ll. 1-6; and col. 3, ll. 4-14) shows elements that suggest "wherein

the phase is terminated by a condition."

Franklin does not explicitly show "wherein the phase is terminated by a

condition. . . ." even though Franklin (col. 4, ll. 1-6; and col. 3, ll. 4-14) suggests

"wherein the phase is terminated by a condition."

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of on-line

auctions that Franklin's (col. 4, ll. 1-6; and col. 3, ll. 4-14) *"Validity . . . conditions. . . ."*

and *"two phases. . . ."* would have been selected in accordance with "wherein the phase

is terminated by a condition. . . ." because such conditions would have facilitated complex

on-line financial transactions, such as sealed bid auctions. (See Franklin col. 1, ll. 16-56).

As per dependent claim 7, Franklin shows the method of claim 6 (See the rejection

of claim 5 supra).

Franklin (col. 4, ll. 1-6; and col. 3, ll. 4-14) shows elements that suggest "wherein

the condition is a time period."

Franklin does not explicitly show "wherein the condition is a time period. . . ."

even though Franklin (col. 4, ll. 1-6; and col. 3, ll. 4-14) suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of on-line

auctions that Franklin (col. 4, ll.1-6; and col. 3, ll. 4-14) *"Validity . . . conditions. . . .";*

"two phases. . . ."; and *"the end of the bidding period. . . ."* would have been selected in

accordance with "wherein the condition is a time period. . . ." because such conditions

would have facilitated complex on-line financial transactions, such as sealed bid auctions.

(See Franklin col. 1, ll. 16-56).

4.   Independent claims 8, 14 & 15 and dependent claims 9-13 and 16-21 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Franklin in view of Minton 6,014,643 (01/11/2000)

[f/d: 08/26/1996] (herein referred to as "Minton").

As per claim 8, Franklin (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 21-36; col. 3, ll. 4-50;

col. 4, ll. 18-28; col. 5, ll. 5-12; col. 5, ll. 32-36; col. 6, ll. 38-42; col. 9, ll. 22-52; and col.

11, ll. 25-34) shows elements that suggest a "universal auction system comprising: a

trading primitive; a script generator for translating trading primitives to temporal protocol

script; a script interpreter for interpreting script protocol. . . ."

Franklin does not explicitly show "a market specification console adapted to

support a plurality of market protocols."

Minton (FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 4; FIG. 5; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 10; FIG. 11; and

FIG. 12) shows elements that suggest "a market specification console adapted to support

a plurality of market protocols."

Minton proposes "console" modifications that would have applied to the on-line

auction system of Franklin. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was

made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to add the "console" modifications to

Franklin, because addition of such modifications would have provided a means *"whereby*

individuals can buy and sell directly from each other. . . ." (See Minton col. 2, ll. 46-57).

As per claim 9, Franklin in view of Minton shows the system of claim 8 (See the

rejection of claim 8 supra).

Franklin (col. 3, line 12) shows a *"deterministic rule. . . ."*

Franklin does not explicitly show "the market specification console further

comprising a plurality of rules wherein at least one rule is user-modifiable."

Minton (FIG. 5, el. 516; FIG. 6, el. 628, and el. 610; FIG. 7; FIG. 10; and FIG.

11) shows elements that suggest "the market specification console further comprising a

plurality of rules wherein at least one rule is user-modifiable."

Minton proposes "user-modifiable" rule modifications that would have applied to

the on-line auction system of Franklin. It would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to add the "user-

modifiable" rule modifications to Franklin, because addition of such modifications would

have provided a means *"whereby individuals can buy and sell directly from each*

other. . . ." (See Minton col. 2, ll. 46-57).

As per claim 10, Franklin in view of Minton shows the system of claim 9 (See the

rejection of claim 9 supra).

Franklin does not explicitly show "wherein rules comprise market protocols."

Minton (FIG. 5; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 10; and FIG. 11) shows elements that

suggest "wherein rules comprise market protocols."

Minton proposes market protocol modifications that would have applied to the on-

line auction system of Franklin. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was

made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to add the market protocol modifications

to Franklin, because addition of such modifications would have provided a means

"whereby individuals can buy and sell directly from each other. . . ." (See Minton col. 2,

ll. 46-57).

As per claim 11, <u>Franklin</u> in view of <u>Minton</u> shows the system of claim 8 (See the rejection of claim 8 <u>supra</u>).

<u>Franklin</u> (FIG. 1; and col. 2, ll. 60-67) shows elements that suggest "a programmable auction server."

<u>Franklin</u> does not explicitly show "wherein the market specification console is coupled to a programmable auction server wherein said programmable auction server is adapted to receive market protocols from said market specification console, the market specification console having a graphic user interface (GUI)."

<u>Minton</u> (FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 3; FIG. 4; FIG. 5; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 10; and FIG. 11) shows elements that suggest "wherein the market specification console is coupled to a programmable auction server wherein said programmable auction server is adapted to receive market protocols from said market specification console, the market specification console having a graphic user interface (GUI)."

<u>Minton</u> proposes market specification console modifications that would have applied to the on-line auction system of <u>Franklin</u>. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to add the market specification console modifications to <u>Franklin</u>, because addition of such modifications would have provided a means *"whereby individuals can buy and sell directly from each other. . . ."* (See <u>Minton</u> col. 2, ll. 46-57).

As per claim 12, <u>Franklin</u> in view of <u>Minton</u> shows the system of claim 11 (See the rejection of claim 11 <u>supra</u>).

<u>Franklin</u> (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 60-67; and col. 3, ll. 1-3) shows elements that suggest "wherein a trader interface is coupled to a network."

<u>Franklin</u> does not explicitly show "wherein a trader interface is coupled to a network. . . ." even though <u>Franklin</u> (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 60-67; and col. 3, ll. 1-3) suggests "wherein a trader interface is coupled to a network."

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of on-line auctions that <u>Franklin's</u> (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 60-67; and col. 3, ll. 1-3) *"auction system 100 . . . can be a network. . . ."* would have been selected in accordance with "wherein a trader interface is coupled to a network. . . ." because such a network would have facilitated complex on-line financial transactions, such as sealed bid auctions. (See <u>Franklin</u> col. 1, ll. 16-56).

As per claim 13, <u>Franklin</u> in view of <u>Minton</u> shows the system of claim 12 (See the rejection of claim 12 <u>supra</u>).

<u>Franklin</u> (col. 3, ll. 4-58) shows elements that suggest submitting a bid.

<u>Franklin</u> (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 60-67; and col. 3, ll. 1-3) shows elements that suggest "a trader interface is coupled to a network."

<u>Franklin</u> does not explicitly show "a trader interface is coupled to a network. . . ." even though <u>Franklin</u> (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 60-67; and col. 3, ll. 1-3) suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of on-line

auctions that Franklin's (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 60-67; and col. 3, ll. 1-3) *"auction system 100*

. . . can be a network. . . ." would have been selected in accordance with "a trader

interface is coupled to a network. . . ." because such a network would have facilitated

complex on-line financial transactions, such as sealed bid auctions. (See Franklin col. 1, ll.

16-56).

As per claim 14, Franklin (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 21-36; col. 3, ll. 4-

50; col. 4, ll. 18-28; col. 5, ll. 5-12; col. 5, ll. 32-36; col. 6, ll. 38-42; col. 9, ll. 22-52; and

col. 11, ll. 25-34) shows elements that suggest "means for transmitting at least one

market protocol to a programmable auction server."

Franklin does not explicitly show "[a] market specification console comprising:

means for specifying a plurality of market protocols; [and] means for displaying at least

one market protocol. . . ."

Minton (FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 4; FIG. 5; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 10; FIG. 11; and

FIG. 12) shows elements that suggest "[a] market specification console comprising:

means for specifying a plurality of market protocols; [and] means for displaying at least

one market protocol. . . ."

Minton proposes "console" modifications that would have applied to the on-line

auction system of Franklin. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was

made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to add the "console" modifications to

Franklin, because addition of such modifications would have provided a means *"whereby individuals can buy and sell directly from each other. . . ."* (See Minton col. 2, ll. 46-57).

As per claim 15, Franklin (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 21-36; col. 3, ll. 4-50; col. 4, ll. 18-28; col. 5, ll. 5-12; col. 5, ll. 32-36; col. 6, ll. 38-42; col. 9, ll. 22-52; and col. 11, ll. 25-34) shows elements that suggest a "method of designing a universal auction system comprising: generating a plurality of auction modules wherein at least one auction module corresponds to at least one function of an auction selected from the group comprising of a bid verifier, an information manager, a clearer, and a registration manager . . . and . . . implementing at least one transaction comprising a bid verification, information dissemination, clearing, and registration of information."

Franklin (col. 3, line 12) shows a *"deterministic rule. . . ."*

Franklin does not explicitly show "specifying a plurality of rules wherein a transaction comprises at least one rule. . . ."even though Franklin (col. 3, line 12) suggests "specifying a plurality of rules wherein a transaction comprises at least one rule."

Minton (FIG. 5, el. 516; FIG. 6, el. 628, and el. 610; FIG. 7; FIG. 10; and FIG. 11) shows elements that suggest "specifying a plurality of rules wherein a transaction comprises at least one rule."

Minton proposes rule specifying modifications that would have applied to the on-line auction system of Franklin. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to add the rule specifying modifications to

Franklin, because addition of such modifications would have provided a means *"whereby individuals can buy and sell directly from each other. . . ."* (See Minton col. 2, ll. 46-57).

As per claim 16, Franklin in view of Minton shows the system of claim 15 (See the rejection of claim 15 supra).

Franklin (col. 3, line 12) shows a *"deterministic rule. . . ."*

Franklin does not explicitly show "displaying a rule to a market designer."

Minton (FIG. 5, el. 516; FIG. 6, el. 628, and el. 610; FIG. 7; FIG. 10; and FIG. 11) shows elements that suggest "displaying a rule to a market designer."

Minton proposes rule display modifications that would have applied to the on-line auction system of Franklin. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to add the rule display modifications to Franklin, because addition of such modifications would have provided a means *"whereby individuals can buy and sell directly from each other. . . ."* (See Minton col. 2, ll. 46-57).

As per claim 17, Franklin in view of Minton shows the system of claim 15 (See the rejection of claim 15 supra).

Franklin (col. 3, line 12) shows a *"deterministic rule. . . ."*

Franklin does not explicitly show "modifying at least one rule."

Minton (FIG. 5, el. 516; FIG. 6, el. 628, and el. 610; FIG. 7; FIG. 10; and FIG. 11) shows elements that suggest "modifying at least one rule."

Minton proposes rule modifications that would have applied to the on-line auction

system of Franklin. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a

person having ordinary skill in the art to add the rule modifications to Franklin, because

addition of such modifications would have provided a means *"whereby individuals can*

buy and sell directly from each other. . . ." (See Minton col. 2, ll. 46-57).

As per claim 18, Franklin in view of Minton shows the system of claim 15 (See the

rejection of claim 15 supra).

Franklin (col. 3, line 12) shows a *"deterministic rule. . . ."*

Franklin does not explicitly show "interpreting a scripted rule."

Minton (FIG. 5, el. 516; FIG. 6, el. 628, and el. 610; FIG. 7; FIG. 10; and FIG.

11) shows elements that suggest "interpreting a scripted rule."

Minton proposes rule modifications that would have applied to the on-line auction

system of Franklin. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a

person having ordinary skill in the art to add the rule modifications to Franklin, because

addition of such modifications would have provided a means *"whereby individuals can*

buy and sell directly from each other. . . ." (See Minton col. 2, ll. 46-57).

As per claim 19, Franklin in view of Minton shows the system of claim 15 (See the

rejection of claim 15 supra).

Franklin (col. 3, line 12) shows a *"deterministic rule. . . ."*

Franklin does not explicitly show "generating a scripted rule."

Minton (FIG. 5, el. 516; FIG. 6, el. 628, and el. 610; FIG. 7; FIG. 10; and FIG.

11) shows elements that suggest "generating a scripted rule."

Minton proposes rule modifications that would have applied to the on-line auction

system of Franklin. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a

person having ordinary skill in the art to add the rule modifications to Franklin, because

addition of such modifications would have provided a means *"whereby individuals can*

buy and sell directly from each other. . . ." (See Minton col. 2, ll. 46-57).

As per claim 20, Franklin in view of Minton shows the system of claim 15 (See the

rejection of claim 15 supra).

Franklin (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 60-67; and col. 3, ll. 1-3) shows elements that suggest

"a programmable auction server."

Franklin (col. 3, line 12) shows a *"deterministic rule. . . ."*

Franklin does not explicitly show "transmitting a rule to a programmable auction

server."

Minton (FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 4; FIG. 5; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 10; FIG. 11; and

FIG. 12) shows elements that suggest "transmitting a rule to a programmable auction

server."

Minton proposes rule modifications that would have applied to the on-line auction

system of Franklin. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a

person having ordinary skill in the art to add the rule modifications to <u>Franklin</u>, because addition of such modifications would have provided a means *"whereby individuals can buy and sell directly from each other. . . ."* (See <u>Minton</u> col. 2, ll. 46-57).

As per claim 21, <u>Franklin</u> in view of <u>Minton</u> shows the system of claim 15 (See the rejection of claim 15 <u>supra</u>).

<u>Franklin</u> (col. 3, ll. 4-58) shows elements that suggest submitting a bid.

<u>Franklin</u> does not explicitly show "maintaining the status of bids."

<u>Minton</u> (FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 4; FIG. 5; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 10; FIG. 11; and FIG. 12) shows elements that suggest "maintaining the status of bids."

<u>Minton</u> proposes bid status modifications that would have applied to the on-line auction system of <u>Franklin</u>. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to add the bid status modifications to <u>Franklin</u>, because addition of such modifications would have provided a means *"whereby individuals can buy and sell directly from each other. . . ."* (See <u>Minton</u> col. 2, ll. 46-57).

RELEVANT PRIOR ART

5.   The prior art references made of record and not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

5,812,668, U.S. Pat. [Sep. 22, 1998]   Weber,   705/79

"SYSTEM, METHOD AND ARTICLE OF MANUFACTURE FOR
VERIFYING THE OPERATION OF A REMOTE TRANSACTION
CLEARANCE SYSTEM UTILIZING A MULTICHANNEL, EXTENSIBLE,
FLEXIBLE ARCHITECTURE." This reference discusses remote transactions
over a network. (See the ABSTRACT) ref. claims 1-21.

CONCLUSION

6.   Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Any response to this action may be sent via facsimile to either:

(703) 308-9051 (for formal communications marked EXPEDITED

PROCEDURE), or

(703) 308-5397 (for informal communications marked PROPOSED or DRAFT).

Hand delivered responses may be brought to:

Sixth floor Receptionist
Crystal Park II
2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, Virginia.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to John L. Young who may be reached via telephone at (703) 305-3801. The

examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell, may be reached at (703) 305-9768.
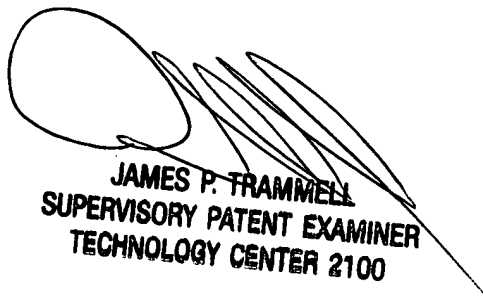
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

John L. Young

Patent Examiner

November 10, 2000

JAMES P. TRAMMELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100